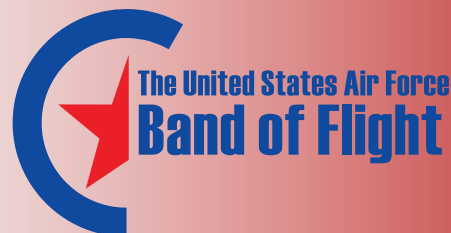




WRIGHT NOTES



News from the USAF Band of Flight

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Tech. Sgt. Eric Knorr performs a trumpet solo with the Concert Band.



Chief's Corner

Chief Master Sergeant Eric Strohecker

Year of the Air Force
Family



Greetings and welcome to the second issue of the United States Air Force Band of Flight's electronic newsletter. I'm Chief Master Sgt. Eric Strohecker, Band Manager, tubist and native of Columbus, Ohio, part of the Band of Flight's seven-state area of operations. It is with great pride that I have the honor of managing this world-class organization of 45 highly talented and creative musicians as we execute our mission of troop morale, community outreach and preservation of our national heritage.

In this issue, you will see our enthusiasm in supporting our Air Force heritage through the eyes of our NCOIC of Public Affairs. Master Sgt. (select) Wendy Harvey of Wadsworth, Ohio describes the upcoming Hearts, Heroes and Heritage concert in conjunction with Dayton's and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base's National Museum of the United States Air Force. The event is on February 13, a great pre-Valentine's day

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concert for you and that special someone in your life.

An on-going project is preserving the band's own history with the help of the very talented Senior Airman Jennifer Kost, oboist and former resident of Lafayette, La. Jennifer has been coordinating interviews with the band's charter members including Sgt. Paul Shartle of Dayton, Ohio. Paul is the founder and first band leader of the original formation of the United States Air Force Band of Flight in 1942. You will read about the humble beginnings of the band, formed from a small group of 30 hand-picked Airmen, of which all Americans can be proud.

Additionally, you will see the great synergy created when the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra joins forces with the Band of Flight to create masterful concerts that have delighted Dayton residents over the past three years. Senior Master Sgt. Todd Nicholls, clarinet and native of Great Falls, Mont., relays the beginnings of our relationship and the wonderful events we have produced together.

Lastly, is a solo trip report about trombonist, Airman 1st Class Andrew Duncan who hails from Pittsburgh, Pa. Andrew was invited by the University of California, Los Angeles to coach and lend his expertise in performing and marching as the UCLA Bruin Marching Band prepared for the football season last September. I think you will see why I am so proud to be a leader in this marvelous organization.

I would also like to take a moment to introduce to you our newest members of the band, our Deputy Commander and Associate Conductor, 2nd Lt. Daniel Boothe of Salisbury, Md.; Master Sgt. Christopher Jeffery, who hails from Barrington, N.H.; and from the great state of Texas and city of Baytown, Airman 1st Class Kyle Huron, tubist. We also wish a fond farewell and best wishes to guitarist Tech. Sgt. Denny Pack and his family who will be joining the Air Force Band of the Pacific at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. Please enjoy the stories and pictures and don't hesitate to write or call. We love to hear from all.

Very Respectfully,

Chief

Concert Band performs annual Hearts, Heroes and Heritage concert —————

Technical Sergeant Wendy Harvey

The USAF Band of Flight Concert Band will kick off 2010 with the annual Hearts, Heroes and Heritage Concert on Saturday, February 13, at 7:30pm at the National Museum of the United States Air Force.

The program opens with "Sound the Bells!" by American composer John Williams. This short, energetic work will start the program off in a grand style as you would expect from this award winning film composer.

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In celebration of Black History Month, the band will perform a set of tunes from the great Edward Kennedy “Duke” Ellington’s songbook. Ellington, composer, pianist and big band leader, is one of the most influential musicians in jazz history. His music transcends labels with elements of blues, gospel, popular and classical genres. Among the selections to be performed include “Main Stem,” “Rockin in Rhythm” and “Lush Life.” “Lush Life” was written by Dayton native, “Billy” Strayhorn. Strayhorn is best known for his collaborations with Ellington.

It is common to honor presidents or military leaders as our heroes. This year, conductor Major R. Michael Mench chose to highlight a less conspicuous but just as important heroine, Rosa Parks. The band will perform “A Movement for Rosa,” an original band composition by composer Mark Camphouse. Camphouse’s homage to Rosa Parks is a significant work in three contrasting sections that depicts her life from her early years through her quest for social equality. The hymn, “We Shall Overcome,” appears almost in its entirety during the final section.

2nd Lt. Daniel Boothe, the Associate Conductor of the Band of Flight, will conduct the Camphouse piece. This concert marks his debut in the band’s “home” concert hall. Lt. Boothe joins the band with extensive conducting experience including a “David Effron Conducting Fellowship” at the prestigious Chautauqua Institute Music School Festival.

When asked about his participation in this year’s concert, Lieutenant Boothe remarked, “The National Museum of the United States Air Force is more than a backdrop for the music we share, it is a powerful symbol of the heroism, innovation, and potential of U.S. Air Power. The heritage of our USAF Band of Flight, the dedication and professionalism of its members, and the harmony it creates with this national museum, truly exemplify ‘excellence in all we do.’ I’m honored to share in this experience!”

During the second half, the band will present a special tribute to “The Air Force Song.” The work, titled “Off We Go,” was written by Chief Master Sgt. Michael Davis, longtime arranger for the U.S. Air Force Band. “Off We Go” is a narration written to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the song that captured the identity of our fine service.

“Off We Go” will feature our talented vocalists, Staff Sgt. Felita Rowe and Senior Airman Andrew Jones. Sergeant Rowe is no stranger to the NMUSAF. She began her career at Wright-Patterson and returned after serving with the USAF Band of the Pacific-Asia. Airman Jones joined the band in October of 2009 after also serving with the Band of the Pacific-Asia. According to Airman Jones, “being reunited with Sergeant Rowe is a dream come true. She’s literally the best female vocalist I’ve worked with, and it’s an honor to stand beside her.” This dynamic duo is always a crowd pleaser.



Staff Sgt. Felita Rowe sings expressively during a recent Concert Band tour.

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This program is one in an annual series presented by the Band of Flight at the National Museum of the United States Air Force. Next month, on March 20, the Band of Flight welcomes special guest artists Mnozil Brass. Mnozil Brass is a contemporary brass septet with a combination of amazing brass virtuosity, singing and quirky humor. It is a show you will not want to miss.

This month, join the Band of Flight in the Modern Flight Gallery for “Hearts, Heroes and Heritage.” This annual celebration will be presented on Saturday, February 13, at 7:30 pm. The concert is free and no tickets are needed. Doors open at 6:30pm. Seating is limited to the first 1,200 people.

Beginning of a Band

Senior Airman Jennifer Kost

As one of the oldest bands in the Air Force, The United States Air Force Band of Flight has an unbroken record of service since its formation and has remained at its original location for its entire history.

The band was activated on September 24, 1942, at Patterson Field (later Wright-Patterson AFB), Ohio, as the 361st Army Air Force Band. Between 1942 and 1948 the band was renamed three times: as the 661st Army Band, then as the 661st Army Air Forces Band, and finally as the 661st Air Force Band on January 2, 1948, not quite four months after the Air Force became a separate branch of service. The band was ultimately re-designated as The Air Force Band of Flight in 1991.



The 661st Army Air Forces Band, led by Chief Warrant Officer Carl Hehmsoth, poses for its unit picture during WWII. Paul Royer is the hornist at the left end of the third row, Frank George the sousaphonist at back left.

In celebration of this rich history and of those who created it, we are very fortunate to maintain a relationship with the band’s founder, Paul S. Shartle, and two of the band’s original members, Paul Royer, and Frank George. These gentlemen are three of the five original members still living today. During a 2008 interview, they shared a few stories about the band’s early days.

In 1942, at “Tent City” (the nickname for the recruit division at Patterson Field) an announcement was made over the PA system declaring the need for a marching band to provide music for the recruits to march to on the flightline. Paul Shartle (although told never to volunteer in the service) volunteered to put together a marching band for the recruits – today’s Air Force now has an official Drum and Bugle corps squadron of trainees at Lackland Air Force Base for this purpose. Shartle was having trouble getting any of the recruits to admit to playing an instrument. He sought guidance from leadership, and here’s how his job became easier: The officer in charge of the 3rd Station Compound (recruits), said “If you can get the guys

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to volunteer, I'll freeze them here at the post; they won't be shipped out!"

While today the United States Air Force Band of Flight performs at such variegated venues as the Dayton Masonic Center, the Michigan State Capital frontage, and Cleveland's Severance Hall, the band's very first performance was at the Fairgrounds in Dayton. According to Mr. Paul Royer, "the bugler started a third too low and played the whole thing in minor!"

The Air Force Band of Flight squadron is occasionally visited by its alumni, and it is always a delightful opportunity and valuable learning experience to reminisce with them as they outline a typical schedule in their day, explain how they joined the band, comment on their physical fitness regimen, illustrate their living arrangements, or discuss the band's regular performance venues and settings. If any Wright Notes readers are alumni of the band, we welcome your stories and invite you to keep in touch.

The Air Force Band of Flight would like to send a special thanks to Mr. Shartle, Mr. Royer, and Mr. George for their efforts in the 1940's to create a legacy of military music and troop morale that we are fortunate enough to share today.



From left, Frank George, Paul Shartle, and Paul Royer stand behind a bench honoring the 361st AAF Band at the National Museum of the United States Air Force.

Band/Dayton Philharmonic partnership benefits community

Senior Master Sergeant Todd Nicholls

"Fantastic!" "We loved it!" "You could have played all night!" Those are but a few of the comments from the 2,400 audience members at the National Museum of the United States Air Force (NMUSAF) after two Holiday concerts this past December. The performances featured the musicians of the USAF Band of Flight (AFBF) led by Major R. Michael Mench, commander, and the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra (DPO) under the direction of Mr. Patrick Reynolds, assistant conductor. This partnership between Dayton's two large, professional, music ensembles has afforded nine concerts to 13,000 Miami Valley residents over the past seven years, beginning a collaboration that has enhanced both the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and Dayton communities. It stands as a shining example of the symbiotic relationship between the United States Air Force and its local communities.

The Air Force needs the expertise of local industry, a viable civilian work-force and the support of the American public to ensure its mission success. In cities and towns throughout the United States, military personnel and their families are woven into the fabric of the communities they live in. They work, go to school, train, volunteer, and buy goods and services, adding immensely to the local quality of life. Wright-

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Patterson's Capt. Kristin Daniel is a medical intern at Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton, Ohio. She is enthusiastic about the training she is receiving at "the Valley" stating, "The diversity of patients and medical conditions I manage is extremely valuable and not available at most military medical facilities. In return, the hospital receives additional, motivated, responsible workers from the military. Both sides benefit!"

The AFBF and DPO collaboration was the brainchild of then commander Lt. Col. Alan Sierichs and DPO musical director Neal Gittleman in 2003 during the Centennial of Flight Celebration. This observance held

special meaning for the Dayton area because of the Wright Brothers' extensive ties to the Miami Valley; they accomplished the majority of their aeronautical research at Huffman Prairie located adjacent to Wright-Patterson AFB. The groups jointly commissioned a work by American composer Ronald Foster entitled "On the Wings of Angels" that brought both the band and orchestra to the newly built Schuster Performing Arts Center. Colonel Sierichs remembers, "The concert was a great success! Playing at the Schuster Center was a thrill and many friendships were forged." He continued, "The city of Dayton and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base are forever linked by their shared history. It only made sense that the DPO, NMUSAF and the AFBF have a robust relationship with each other. It's about uniting Dayton's people and culture through music."

Recently the Band of Flight augmented its horn section with Mr. Sean Vore, a regular performer with the DPO. Tech. Sgt. Kristen TenWolde, AFBF horn section leader, was enthusiastic in her praise of Sean as a music professional. "He fit into the section exceptionally well and helped us communicate Air Force excellence to 6,000 Indiana citizens. Sean was enthusiastic in helping the AFBF achieve its Public Affairs mission of winning the hearts and minds of the American public." She continued, "Since meeting Sean, communication between the two sections has improved, bolstering both ensembles." This sharing of talent goes both ways. AFBF trumpeter Tech. Sgt. Eric Knorr is a regular substitute with the DPO and former Band of Flight percussionist and Air Force veteran Gerald Noble is a current member of the DPO.

This past October the AFBF's saxophone section was featured with the DPO on their Super Pops concert, Benny Goodman's Big Band Birthday Bash. The team of local industry (the DPO), military (the AFBF) and civilian expertise (jazz clarinet virtuoso Ken Peplowski) delivered an event that none could have alone. It was an evening that will not be soon forgotten by the standing room audience at Dayton's Schuster Center. Whether talking about weapons systems development, intelligence analysis and yes even music, the former commander of the Air Force Material Command, Gen (ret) Bruce Carlson, got it right when he wrote, "Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and Dayton continue to thrive because of the partnership with local industry and our civilian workforce, many of whom are veterans."



Members of the Band of Flight and Dayton Philharmonic perform together at the National Museum of the United States Air Force.

Trombonist teaches at UCLA Band Camp

Staff Sergeant David Diamond

With its usual impressive power and musicality, the UCLA Bruin Marching Band thrilled thousands at the EagleBank Bowl in Washington, DC, on December 29, 2009. The work which led to this performance, however, began in September at Marching Band Camp. During the intense eight-day Camp, Marching Band members benefited from the teaching of several clinicians from outside the school—including the Band of Flight's newest trombonist, Airman 1st Class Andrew Duncan. Airman Duncan's duties included directing sectional rehearsals for the group's 35-member trombone section, teaching private trombone lessons, and teaching music and marching fundamentals at rehearsals of the full band. The hours were long: 12-hour days the first week, 8-hour days the second; and the goals were incredibly ambitious: 5 halftime shows' worth of music and marching drill movements to memorize, and a full folder of popular music to learn for performance during games—all to be performed for live audiences of more than 500,000 people and millions more on television.



Airman 1st Class Andrew Duncan with members of the UCLA Bruin Marching Band trombone section

Airman Duncan was eminently qualified to help the band achieve its goals. In addition to a Master's degree in music from Carnegie Mellon University, Duncan also drew on his two years as a member of the world champion Cadets drum corps, a year as lead trombone for the Disney All-American College Band, and the marching fundamentals he learned at Basic Military Training, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, in 2008. He had also served as a drum corps instructor, teaching the Capital Regiment corps in Columbus, Ohio, in 2006. While working with Capital Regiment, Airman Duncan met Professor Gordon Henderson, Director of Bands at UCLA, who was also helping prepare the corps for competition. "I observed him teaching marching fundamentals (he was on the visual staff for that group)," remembers Prof. Henderson, "and I was impressed with his ability to communicate and motivate the students."



Airman Duncan leads the section through a musical warmup just prior to their performance at the Kansas State game on September 19, 2009.

For his part, Airman Duncan arrived looking forward to the experience. "From the moment I got the call from Gordon to teach at the 2009 camp, I was excited for the opportunity to share my expertise with the students at UCLA and reconnect with the friends I had made during my first stint at UCLA in 2008," he remembers.

"For several mornings, (Duncan) drilled us on our marching

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fundamentals,” recalls Andrew Rodgers, a senior Anthropology Major at UCLA and co-section leader for the Bruin trombone section. “There was definitely a significant improvement from when he started working with us. He’d mix things up to keep us on our game.”

The afternoon trombone sectionals lasted anywhere from 1-3 hours, and students found them very helpful. “They were well-run, because (Airman Duncan) would talk to the director about what should be covered. It was very clear,” said senior Trombone Major Emily Joseph. Andrew Rodgers attributed Duncan’s effectiveness to his “cool, adaptable persona. He’s extremely good at instructing a large group.”

After the first week of camp, the Bruin Marching Band took the field for UCLA’s home football opener. Airman Duncan was in his full service dress uniform for the game, which prompted some questions from his new friends in the trombone section. “He was very positive overall and really nice. When he was in uniform for the game, we asked him questions about the Air Force,” remembers Joseph. “I got an excellent impression of the Air Force Bands, and it was a good chance to have questions answered about being a musician in the military,” added Rodgers. Band members were also inquisitive about broader topics, remembers Duncan. “What made this year truly special was that I was able to spread the Air Force message in a positive way. They were not only interested in learning more about Air Force Bands, but some were interested in pursuing careers in the Air Force at large and were curious about the many benefits of a career in the Air Force.” All in all, the experience proved beneficial for Airman Duncan, as well as for the university. “Not only did he help raise the playing level of the trombone section a few notches, Andrew’s enthusiasm was infectious and it helped establish a strong sense of camaraderie within the section that lasted through the entire season,” summed up Professor Henderson. Adds Airman Duncan, “I’m truly thankful that the Air Force made it possible for me to represent the Band of Flight at the camp, and look forward to returning in the future!”



The Bruin Marching Band rehearses on the field before UCLA’s opening home football game.

The Secretary and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force named July 09 - Jul 10, Year of the Air Force Family. The Year of the Air Force Family will provide leadership at all levels a vehicle to communicate information and data to Airmen, family members, surrounding communities and Department of Defense audiences on the variety and scope of programs offered by the Air Force. The Year of the Air Force Family will be used to highlight the many successful programs already in place and to inform Airmen and their families of the development of new programs, unveiling them throughout the year. (from af.mil, the official Air Force website)



Welcome to Our Newest Members



Second Lieutenant Daniel Boothe
Deputy Commander/Assistant Conductor

Hometown: Salisbury, MD
Education: Bachelor of Music,
Radford University
Master of Music,
George Mason University



Master Sergeant Christopher Jeffery
Trumpet

Hometown: Barrington, NH
Air Force Service: 23 years
Prior Assignments: SHAPE NATO Band,
Belgium; Band of the Pacific, Hawaii and Japan;
Band of Liberty, Hanscom Air Force Base; Band
of the West, Lackland Air Force Base



Airman First Class Kyle Huron
Tuba

Hometown: Baytown, TX
Education: Bachelor of Music,
Tennessee Tech University
Master of Music,
Cincinnati College-Conservatory

Best Wishes to Departing Member



Technical Sergeant Dennis Pack
Guitar

Band of Flight Service: 3 years
New Assignment: Band of the Pacific-
Alaska

Band of Flight Annual Award Winners



Senior Master Sergeant
Jon Levy
SNCO of the year



Staff Sergeant
Julia Taylor
NCO of the Year



Senior Airman
Andrew Jones
Airman of the Year



Technical Sergeant
Wendy Harvey
*Air Force Sergeants
Association
Bandsman of the Year*

Air Force Public Affairs Communications Excellence Awards



Senior Master Sergeant
Robert Green
SNCO Category



Staff Sergeant
David Diamond
NCO Category



Airman First Class
Andrew Duncan
Airman Category



Come Enjoy a Concert with your Band of Flight!

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|-------------|---|
| February 13 | Concert Band- National Museum of the United States Air Force, 7:30PM |
| March 5 | Concert Band- Charleston Civic Center, (not open to public) Charleston, WV 8:00PM |
| March 6 | Concert Band- West Virginia University at Parkersburg College Activity Center, Parkersburg, WV 7:00PM |
| March 7 | Concert Band- Wesleyan College Campus Chapel, Buckhannon, WV, 7:00PM |
| March 8 | Concert Band- Keith Albee Performing Arts Center, Huntington, WV 7:30PM |
| March 20 | Concert Band w/Mnozil Brass- National Museum of the United States Air Force, 7:30PM |
| May 15 | Glenn Miller Concert- National Museum of the United States Air Force, 6:00PM |
| June 25 | Freedom's Call Tattoo- National Museum of the United States Air Force, 8:00PM |

All concerts are tentative and subject to change; please check our website, www.bandofflight.af.mil for up-to-date information.

The mission of the United States Air Force Bands and Music Program is to support the Air Force in war and peace by fostering our national heritage and by providing professional musical products and services for official military, recruiting, and community relations events.